

NEWS LETTER No. 7.

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LOUISIANA - MISSISSIPPI
SECTION

—OF—

Mathematical Association of America



There Should be a Thousand Members of the
Mathematical Association of America
in Mississippi and Louisiana.

S. T. SANDERS, *Chairman*,
Baton Rouge, La

P. K. SMITH *Secretary-Treasurer*
Hattiesburg, Miss.

HAL. FOX, *Vice-President*
Starkville, Miss.

J. A. HARDIN, *Vice-President*
Shreveport, La.

After a personal conference in Jackson, Mississippi, Chairman Sanders and Secretary-Treasurer Smith decided that it would be more practicable to continue sending the news letters from Baton Rouge.

A CORRECTION

In the recent News Letter we erroneously stated that the Council membership fee was \$1.00 per year. Though it is probable that this error was recognized by nearly every reader, for safety's sake we hasten to correct it. *The annual fee for membership in the National Council of Mathematics Teachers is \$2.00.* The payment of this sum to managing Editor Clark brings to the payer not only membership in the Council but a year's subscription to the best magazine for mathematics teachers published anywhere in the world. Any secondary teacher of mathematics, or, for that matter, any college teacher, desiring the magazine may send his or her check for \$2.00 to John R. Clark, Editor and Business Manager, 425 West 123rd St., New York City.

A NATION WIDE ECHO OF THE SHREVEPORT MEETING

Readers of the *American Mathematical Monthly* who live in Louisiana and Mississippi should be gratified to find in its first article, "The Association and its Sections" words of high appreciation for the recent Louisiana-Mississippi campaign for the betterment of mathematics teaching and the promotion of mathematical interest. In Professor Slaughter's fine analysis of the present status and outlook of the M. A. of A. in relation to its seventeen Sections, is evidence that the Louisiana-Mississippi Section may be considered to have done a pioneer work when it invited and secured at the Shreveport meeting an organic affiliation with it of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. It should be a source of satisfaction to all that other Sections of the M. A. of A. are contemplating for their own territory a similar articulation with the Council.

WE NEED FINANCIAL HELP !

Money is needed for the year's program and the need is urgent! Professor Smith of Hattiesburg, our Secretary-treasurer, is appealing to all college mathematicians who are not already members of the M. A. of A. in the two States to join at once, since apart from the other membership benefits, there would result quite a money benefit to the Section if they

should join. Every new member added to the Section pays an initiation fee of \$2.00, and this fee is credited to the treasury of the Section instead of to the National organization's treasury.

Estimating that there may be 100 men and women teaching mathematics in the colleges and universities of Louisiana and Mississippi, who are not now members of the M. A. of A., if the hundred should at once become members there would be made available for use by this Section the sum of \$200.00 or a total of 100 initiation fees of \$2.00 each.

Why should a teacher of college mathematics anywhere continue unaffiliated with the Mathematical Association of America?

AN OPPORTUNITY

The fine start—it is only a start—which has been made in this Section territory must be followed up steadily, intelligently, vigorously, boldly—year in and year out, if mathematics is to come into its proper place in the schools and the colleges of our Section territory! True it is that the excellent start presents the richer opportunity, but a present opportunity amounts to little if it is not seized and utilized.

A GLORIOUS CAUSE IS OURS !

Mathematics is queen of the sciences and we are her humble devotees! Four dollars a year for the privilege of keeping up with one's professional field is a small sacrifice when viewed in the light of benefits received. But when it is considered that the field is mathematics, mathematics the science of all sciences, the universal science, the supreme medium of instinctive expression for the greatest minds of history—then positively insignificant does such a sacrifice seem. Four dollars a year, $33\frac{1}{3}$ cents a month, a penny a day! Yet within Louisiana and Mississippi must be hundreds of men and women professionally given over to the teaching of mathematics, but not members of the Mathematical Association of America!

Neither the teaching nor the study of mathematics is a game of solitaire! Certainly the secondary and the college mathematicians cannot ignore the associative and cooperative factors of their professional responsibilities.

Those Superintendents of Louisiana Parishes and of Mississippi Counties who have not responded to our requests for the names and addresses of High School Mathematics Teachers are again earnestly urged to give us this information!

The news letter should go to all mathematics teachers in the two States, but this is impossible unless we have their names and the addresses on our mailing lists. We have been disappointed at the lack of response of so many of the county and parish superintendents to our repeated requests for such information. It is information which could be easily furnished and once furnished might be the means of the Section's contributing an effective service to the cause of mathematics teaching at points of its territory not hitherto reached by its influence. All superintendents of the two States are receiving the News Letters.

The floods have brought devastation to many of us. Therefore should we "carry on" the more vigorously our usual school programs!

The summer schools of Louisiana-Mississippi territory will soon begin to function. Many of the high school mathematics teachers will be registered for courses in the various normal colleges and universities. Those who do so will have excellent opportunity to acquire definite information from mathematics instructors about membership in both the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Mathematical Association of America. The opportunity will be equally present, on the other hand, for college and normal mathematics teachers to point out to ambitious and interested students of mathematics the mathematical vistas that are certain to unfold to them on entering the doors of these two great societies of mathematical workers.

We earnestly invite communications from all live teachers and students of mathematics in the Louisiana-Mississippi territory! We want none from dead ones!

The responsibility is great. Four men unassisted cannot do this job. We are busiest of the busy. Six live-wire notes each bi-monthly period, "briefing" a successful experiment in teaching geometry, or proposing a vexatious problem, or

describing a new solution of an old one, or offering an interesting bit of mathematical history, or calling Louisiana-Mississippi's attention to some inspiring article of the *Mathematics Teacher*, or commenting on an article in the *Monthly*, or furnishing a list of new members of the N. C. of T. of M., or the M. A. of A. would be of inestimable assistance and encouragement not only to the official family of the Section, but what is vastly more important, to the host of other mathematics people who work in our territory and receive our News Letter.

SOME RECENT REMARKS ABOUT MATHEMATICS

"To the influence of this paper ('On the Equilibrium of Heterogeneous Substances' by Josiaph W. Gibbs) it is largely due that chemistry, then an almost unmathematical science, has so developed that the mathematical equipment now required by the student of chemistry differs but little from that which is requisite for the student of physics."

From an address by H. B. Williams, on "Mathematics and the Biological Sciences," as published in May-June Bulletin of American Mathematical Society.

"It is less well understood that not alone the chemist and the physicist, but the biologist as well must be able to read mathematical papers if he is not to be cut off from the possibility of understanding important communications in his own field of science."—*H. B. Williams.*

"There are probably not a few professional mathematicians whose inherited capacity (in mathematics) is actually less than that of men who have quit the subject in despair. * * * * It seems that the lesson to be derived is that the awakening of a real interest on the part of the student in his subject of study is quite as necessary for his success as is the possession of innate capacity."—*H. B. Williams.*

"It was my privilege to work for six years with a really great teacher of geometry and Latin, Principal Chester T. Lane, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. At Purdue University they used to say they could detect Mr. Lane's students in a class of one hundred by the way they talked mathematics. He taught about thirty-five years in Ft. Wayne and died there. During the last years of his life he received many letters of appreciation from successful men. They all said: 'You taught me how to work, how to read the printed page, and the joy of achievement'."

From H. D. Merrell's "Fads and Plane Geometry," as published in the January *Mathematics Teacher*.

"Mathematical reasoning is the only true conservative influence in the world today. It keeps us from radical ideas in all fields of thought. Bolshevism and perpetual motion and sometimes matrimony all alike succumb to mathematical calculation."

From Harvey A. Neville's "Mathematics and Science," as published in the January *Mathematics Teacher*.

"The proud citizens of many cities of ancient Greece sacrificed a hundred oxen to the Olympian gods whenever one of their fellow citizens had discovered a new theorem in geometry."

From M. I. Pupin's "Higher Endeavor in Science," as published in *Science*.

"As for the importance of the calculus, let us reiterate that science, engineering, and industry are demanding more and more calculus and that America the greatest manufacturing and engineering nation in the world, needs more trained mathematical minds; as a powerful mathematical tool, it shows the student the far-reaching influences of mathematics upon which the development of civilization has always been dependent; it develops a kind of thought in its dealings with small changes in related quantities that is useful in considering everyday problems."

From Susie B. Farmer's "The Place and Teaching of Calculus in Secondary Schools," as published in April *Mathematics Teacher*.

WHAT ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR MATHEMATICAL LIBRARY AND JOURNALS ARE HAD BY SOME OF OUR UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES ?

Texas A. & M.	\$ 150	per year
University of Minnesota	180	" "
University of Ohio	250	" "
University of Kentucky	300-500	" "
University of Colorado	500	" "
University of Washington	500	" "
University of Indiana	550	" "
University of Wisconsin	600-800	" "
University of Illinois	800	" "
University of Michigan	1150	" "

COMMUNICATIONS

*(From the President of Louisiana-Mississippi Chapter
of the National Council of Mathematics Teachers.)*

Dear Prof. Sanders:

I am greatly interested in the success of this movement of the Mathematics Teachers in the secondary schools of the two States, and it shall be my pleasure to do what I can to make the meeting for next year a success. I wish to send something for the news letter at an early date. I believe it will be wise to get in touch with the teachers who should be interested as soon as they are located for next year's work, and I intend to undertake such a campaign. During the summer vacation they will be scattered to the four winds, but when they "settle" I think we can reach them.

Yours truly,

W. C. ROATEN.

*(From the President
of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.)*

Mr. S. T. Sanders,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

My dear Mr. Sanders:

I just received your news letter number six and am delighted to know that you are still carrying on the propaganda in the interests of the Mathematical Association of America and the Louisiana-Mississippi branch of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

One of the very delightful and interesting features of our trip South was our stay in Shreveport and meeting our fellow-workers in the field of mathematics from these two States.

Please accept our best wishes for a successful administration and continued growth of both organizations.

Very cordially yours,

MARIE GUGLE,
Assistant Superintendent.